

## **Forest Service Combines Public Questioning with Place Mapping**

The Black Hills National Forest staff members have combined a public questioning strategy with sense of place mapping to develop a four-hour public workshop for travel management planning. They ask the public, in advance, four questions about what they'd like to see for the future of travel management on the forest. The facilitator cadre summarizes the responses before the workshops begin. At the workshop, the public first participates in a facilitated exercise designed to show them the scope of public feelings and ideas about travel management.

The next step in the workshop is a two-hour session using sense of place mapping where the room splits into four smaller groups. People gather around large scale maps of the forest with different colored markers and they are asked to draw on the map their view of what should be open to motorized travel, what some good routes would be, what should be closed, what loops should be considered in the plans, and more. They draw whatever is on their minds on the maps. The facilitators take the maps out of the room, summarize them on one big map, and bring that map back for people to consider. The staff use that map to develop the proposed action to send out to the public for formal scoping at the front end of the NEPA process.

Following is a sample meeting invitation:

### **Notice of Public Workshops**

#### **Ideas wanted about the future of motorized travel in the Black Hills**

The Black Hills National Forest is looking for ideas about the future of motorized travel in the Black Hills at a series of workshops to be held during November in South Dakota and Wyoming.

The workshops will help shape the future of off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the Black Hills National Forest.

Meetings will be held at the following locations and times:

- **Custer, South Dakota:** Monday, November 13, 2006 at 6 p.m., located at the Black Hills National Forest Supervisor's Office, Conference Room, 1019 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street.
- **Sundance, Wyoming:** Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at 6:00 p.m., located at the Crook County Courthouse, 309 Cleveland Street.
- **Spearfish, South Dakota:** Wednesday, November 15, 2006 at 6:00 p.m., located at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center, Cedar Room, I-90 at Exit 14.
- **Rapid City, South Dakota:** Thursday, November 16, 2006 at 6:00 p.m., located at the Ramkota Hotel, Pactola Room, 2111 North LaCrosse Street.

The public is asked to consider and submit answers to the following questions by October 27:

**In your opinion:**

1. What does this forest offer in terms of outstanding travelway opportunities and experiences?
2. In what ways are you satisfied with the forest's travelways and why?
3. What is the role of the community in helping to provide a quality travelway system?
4. What do you want to be sure is part of our travelways in the future?

Send your replies to the following address by October 27, 2006, preferably by e-mail: [mdebelak@fs.fed.us](mailto:mdebelak@fs.fed.us) or Michelle Debelak, USDA Forest Service-Recreation, PO Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208-3623.

Anyone who has an interest in or concerns about motorized use and how travel is managed is encouraged attend one of the workshops.

Information about the upcoming public workshops may be obtained by contacting Tom Willems, Travel Management Planner, at (605) 673-9200.

Information about Black Hills National Forest Travel Management can be found on the Forest website at

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills/recreation/travel\\_management/ohv.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills/recreation/travel_management/ohv.shtml)

and electronic copies of current Forest travel information maps can be found at

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills/maps/>